

ran a program called S.T.A.R., Strategic Training and Relocation, for the United States Department of Labor. This program matched unemployed workers in Mississippi with employers in different parts of the state. Through his work with this program, Lieutenant Colonel Huff helped to greatly reduce the unemployment rate in Mississippi during that time.

Lieutenant Colonel Huff's life shows us what true commitment and leadership for our country and our state should be. The impact of Huff's diligent work for the state of Mississippi and the United States is incalculable. His actions should inspire the rest of us to follow his model of exemplary service.

I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Huff for his honorable service to our country and our state, and I would also like to wish him a very happy 100th birthday. Semper Fi.

TO RECOGNIZE SGTMAJ JOBE ON  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Major Jobe on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 30 years of service. SgtMaj Jobe enlisted in April 1988 and attended the school of infantry at Camp Pendleton, California before reporting to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. SgtMaj Jobe served as a machine gunner, machine gun team leader, Troop Handler, Recruiter, and participated in several deployments before earning the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After his promotion to Staff Sergeant, Jobe served as Platoon Sergeant and Platoon Commander in Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, completing deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Post deployment, Jobe served as the Chief Instructor and Faculty Advisor for Career Course at the Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Academy in Japan. As a Gunnery Sergeant, he was assigned the Future Operations Chief for III Marine Expeditionary Force before reporting to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines to serve as Company Gunnery Sergeant and later First Sergeant. During this assignment, Jobe participated in "The March Up" to Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the latter part of his career, Jobe served as the Inspector & Instructor First Sergeant for Company B, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion deploying to Iraq. After selection to Sergeant Major, Jobe served at Recruiting Station Dallas until becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major for the Eight Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune. While there, Jobe deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Jobe was then transferred to 1st Marine Division serving as the Division Sergeant Major where he served as the SgtMaj of the Blue Diamond.

SgtMaj Jobe's decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and three gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" and three gold stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking SgtMaj Jobe and his family for their 30 years of service to the nation. I wish Dave, his wife, Kerri; and their sons DJ and Tyler, the best of luck in their future endeavors.

REMARKS BY JOHN J. SULLIVAN

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2017, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled "Advancing Human Rights to Combat Extremism." The hearing focused on ways soft power and human rights diplomacy could effectively combat extremist ideology and policies. I had the privilege to sit down with Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan recently and discuss this issue with him in the context of our ongoing dialogue with the Government of Sudan. Mr. Speaker, Deputy Secretary Sullivan gave a speech at the Al-Neelain Mosque in Sudan before a variety of faith leaders. In the speech, he makes the case for a values-based diplomacy, and holding countries accountable for violations of fundamental human rights, especially religious freedom. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the speech he gave with his permission:

Asalaam Alaikam. I am honored to join all of you here today.

I would like to first thank the leaders of the Al-Neelain Mosque for hosting us today and for their gracious hospitality.

Many people from different faiths, backgrounds, and cultures have joined us here today to talk about the important work they are undertaking in Sudan to embrace tolerance and further the goal of mutual respect among all citizens.

It was a great privilege to spend time with many of you earlier this morning and to learn about the many ways that interfaith groups are working together to forge a new path forward in Sudan and to move away from divisions based on religion and culture. Our discussion was particularly significant as we continue to build a new relationship between the United States and Sudan. I want you to know that the U.S. government and international community stand with you in this important work.

THE U.S. COMMITMENT

This is my first visit to your beautiful country. Secretary Tillerson asked me to travel to Khartoum to speak with you and your government about the growing importance of our bilateral relationship. I am here today to underscore one key aspect of that relationship: the shared values of mutual respect, tolerance, and religious freedom.

I would like to share a bit of my own personal history on these topics, as they are central to who I am. I am the grandson of Irish-Catholic immigrants who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts in the 1880s. At the time they arrived—and for many decades that followed—Catholics in the United States faced widespread prejudice based on their religion. When John F. Kennedy—another Catholic from my home state—ran for President of the United States in 1960, he even had to give a prominent speech to reassure the nation that his faith was compatible with the duties of the office of President.

In the United States today, recalling such history seems quaint. But it was not easy,

and it took many decades. Eventually divisions were narrowed and mutual understanding between Catholics and Protestants in the United States improved substantially. Today, it is nearly unthinkable that one's status as a Catholic in the United States would serve as a disadvantage to one's ambitions for life.

The American experience in this regard underscores that respect for the human dignity of every person—regardless of religious belief or origin—is a key component of not only protecting human rights, but also fostering a society that can flourish, build upon each other's strengths, and move forward together.

This brings me to one of the purposes of my visit: to make clear that the United States remains deeply committed to positive engagement with Sudan on a wide range of topics—including the protection of religious freedom and the promotion of other human rights throughout your country.

This path of closer engagement is new for both of us.

In 2015, after decades of strained bilateral relations, the United States began a measured engagement with your government to urge greater progress in various peace processes and to seek positive changes for the people of Sudan—regardless of religion, class, or ethnic background.

In June 2016, Sudan and the United States initiated a historic framework for the path forward, the so-called Five Track Engagement Plan.

This plan outlined five priority areas for constructive engagement, and required the Sudanese government to:

(1) cease hostilities in conflict regions, including the aerial bombardment in Darfur and the Two Areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states;

(2) improve humanitarian access throughout Sudan so that aid groups could provide vital resources and assistance needed by the Sudanese people;

(3) refrain from interfering in South Sudan and instead play a constructive role in regional peace efforts;

(4) cooperate with regional efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army; and;

(5) build U.S.-Sudanese cooperation on counter terrorism, and make both of our countries safer. In each of those five areas, the Government of Sudan has made measureable progress. As a result, last month, the United States formally revoked certain U.S. sanctions on Sudan to open a new chapter in our bilateral relationship.

We hope that these positive developments are emblematic of a positive trajectory for the future of our bilateral relationship. But, we also recognize that completion of the Five Track Engagement Plan is only a first step on a longer road toward fully normalizing our bilateral relations.

More hard work is required—from both of our countries.

NEXT STEPS IN THE RELATIONSHIP

The United States is eager to see Sudan make progress in a range of areas in the months and years ahead, as we work towards a new framework for bilateral engagement. In short, the closer our countries become, the higher our expectations for Sudan will become.

This engagement will proceed on several fronts.

For Sudan to become a full partner of the United States, it must seek peace within its borders and with its neighbors, and cooperate reliably with the international community to improve security and prosperity in the region and adhere to long-standing international norms.

In addition, supporting human rights, including religious freedom, has been, and will